

Middle School/ High School  
Parent Advisory Council  
Indiana School for the Deaf  
Oct. 9, 2000

The Middle School/High School Parent Advisory Council met on Monday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 to 5:30 in Jerry Thixton's office. Those in attendance were: Barb Gantt, Wendy Brimmer, Leithia Whited, John Whited, Stephanie Ruddy, Tami Hossler, Linda Lloyd (HS Supervising Teacher), Jerry Thixton (MS Supervising Teacher), Jeff Richards (Guidance Counselor), Matt Krueger (Dean of Boys), Bethann Wright (Head of Food Services), Brian Bippus (Athletic Director), and Bob Kovatch (Principal). The meeting was interpreted.

Discussion:

f. Can students attend PAC meetings?

The PAC members agreed that students may attend PAC meetings if they have an issue they would like to bring in front of the PAC. They must contact Tami Hossler, PAC Chairperson preferably two weeks in advance of the meeting to be put on the agenda.

2. Video Games in the Dorms:

A group of students from the HS boys' dorm were concerned that some of the video games they liked to play were not permitted due to staff viewing the games and deeming them too violent in nature. Matt Krueger, Debbie Fetzner (Dean of Students), Jay Kreiger (Technology Specialist, and Bob Kovatch have been meeting to discuss this concern. They are considering setting up a screening committee to view and purchase video games that are non-violent to have on hand in the dorm for students' use. ISD's goal is a violence-free campus. Members of the PAC also suggested that a student be allowed to be on the screening committee.

3. Brown Cafeteria:

Bethann Wright, (Head of Food Services), attending the meeting and went over the renovation process of Brown Cafeteria along with how food is purchased for the school.

- ◆ They are in the process of moving offices and equipment back into Brown Cafeteria and hope to have the move completed shortly.
- ◆ She very happy with the renovations and is especially proud of the new floor logo.
- ◆ Once they are moved back into Brown Cafeteria, regular meals will be served along with the salad bar.
- ◆ Due to a 1996 staff reduction, Brown Cafeteria has three cooks and Willard has only two cooks. This limits the amount of homemade food that can be served.
- ◆ In regards to how food is purchased, Bethann reported that the food is ordered sometimes five months in advance because of the state system she must follow. The state then gets bids from food producers and usually the lowest bid is who the state will use to purchase food. She tries hard to get specialty items for preschoolers and the elementary children to perk up their meals through a special

request system she has to follow. Bethann also stated that most public schools work off a profit system and can cater more to what the students will eat. ISD has to follow the state system.

PAC parents asked, "What happens when a student doesn't like what is being served?" Bethann replied that the cafeteria's goal is that all children go away having had a meal. This means that if they do not like what is being served they can have peanut butter and jelly, cottage cheese, the salad bar, and even milk and cereal. She will follow up with her staff to make sure they providing these items to those children. Linda Lloyd will follow up with staff to make sure that they understand that the children should not go hungry because they do not like something that is being served and that options are available.

4. Selling Pop at Lunch Time for High School Students:

Bethann Wright explained how important calcium is especially during the growing years when the skeleton is being set. She explained that soda pop contains phosphates that take calcium from the skeleton. She also explained how important it is for children and teenagers to drink milk and eat dairy products during these growing years. Bethann also explained that soda pop couldn't be sold in the cafeteria due to state law.

Bob Kovatch is continuing to follow-up on this.

5. Athletics:

- ◆ Brian Bippus, ISD's Athletic Director, attended the meeting and reported that the fall sporting events are starting to wrap-up.
- ◆ The Varsity girls won the CSSD Volleyball Tournament in Ohio. The team will be going to MSSD to compete in the Spike-Out October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Winter sports, basketball, swimming, wrestling will be starting up soon. Once the floor is cleaned in KRC, Middle School basketball can once again be held there. A request for new bleachers has been made for KRC.

PAC members made several suggestions to help make communication between coaches and parents easier. They suggested the following:

- ◆ Prior to school starting, a general letter be sent out to the students explaining what sports will be offered, when they will begin, also including any information on summer camps or sporting camps offered by ISD.
- ◆ Prior to the first practice, a letter be sent home to all athletes and parents giving a practice and game schedule, directions to away games, how to contact coaches and the Athletic Director, and team rosters.
- ◆ Once the season has begun, in case of cancellations of practices or games or additions of scrimmages or games, a list is given to the coach so that they can contact parents.
- ◆ In case of late arrival to ISD from away games, the coach contacts ISD security before leaving the away school to let them know what time they should arrive back to ISD. Parents can then call security to find out what time the bus will arrive back.
- ◆ All the above information be sent to the residential supervisors too.

PAC members thanked Brian Bippus for all his efforts in making ISD's athletic program great.

6. Concession Stand in Caskey:  
PAC members would like to invite Melba Bippus (concession stand supervisor), to come to the next PAC meeting. The members would like to see how they could help to keep the concession stands running through all the sporting events.
7. In-House Suspension:  
PAC members voiced their concerns over students losing athletic privileges including missing practices and games due as discipline for misconduct. Matt Krueger reported that the dorm is aware of the problem. However, when In-House suspension occurs during school or in the dorm, sometimes students will have to miss athletic events. PAC members stressed the importance of contacting the parents when this happens.
8. Drivers' Education Car:  
Linda Lloyd reported that Jess Blackwell, (Driver's Education Instructor), last year had put in a request for a new car. The state was willing to give him a compact car. He turned this down since he didn't feel it would be a safe car to conduct driving instruction. The car he is using has high miles, but has been serviced and is in good condition.

The next PAC meeting will be November 13<sup>th</sup>, Monday, at 3:30 in Jerry Thixton's office in the Middle School. Please mark your calendars.

November 13<sup>th</sup> Tentative Agenda:

1. Concession Stand: Melba Bippus
2. Health Center: Is it possible for a nurse to give out medication in the Main Building rather than students walking to the Health Center at all hours during the school day? (I will check with Deb Robarge on this, possibly ask her to attend.)
3. Update on ISTEP, PSAT, SAT, and other standardized exams being given to students: Jeff Richards
4. Graduation Statistics: How many ISD students go on to college and graduate? How is ISD preparing our students for college and or the job market? Etc.: Jeff Richards
5. Reading level statistics of students graduating at ISD compared to other mainstreamed schools and other Deaf Schools: Jeff Richards

